DON'T FORGET THE STAFF MEETING APRIL 20

(Ed. Note: Mark Lane, author of RUSH TO JUDGEMENT, is now serving as an unpaid chief investigator for D.A. Jim Garrison in New Orleans. He has consented to write a regular column for the CCI FORUM, the first appearing below.)

TWO SUBPOENAS

By Mark Lane

NEW ORLEANS, La.-----During March, 1968, Jim Garrison moved suddenly and dramatically toward evidence that had been in protective custody for more than four years. He asked the Criminal District Court in Louisana for a Certificate to compel Allen Dulles to testify before the New Orleans Grand Jury. He also sought to subpoena the Zapruder film.

"WE DECLINE"

Dulles had been the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency until September 27, 1961. While Dulles was head of that agency, a CIA front negotiated with a firm in New Orleans for the purchase of trucks and other vehicles to use in the CIA-sponsored invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. The CIA front organization also used the name "Lee Harvey Oswald" in connection with the purchase, although Oswald was, at that time, in the Soviet Union.

In his motion papers, Garrison charged that one of the witnesses subpoened by the grand jury in the investigation into the assassination was Gordon Novel, who "claims to have been employed by the CIA at the time that Allen Dulles was the head of the CIA". Added Garrison, "Gordon Novel fled the State of Louisiana to avoid testifying and sought to enlist the aid of the CIA in preventing his return."

Garrison also pointed out that David Ferrie, who had been named in the indictment as a conspirator in the plot to assassinate President Kennedy, was an employee of the CIA during the Dulles regime. "Among other things," said Garrison, "he (Ferrie) was a flying instructor in Guatemala prior to the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion."

The application for the Certificate was heard before Judge Matthew S. Braniff, and on March 7, he issued the Certificate. In that document, Braniff certified that each of Garrison's charges reported above was supported by fact. The issuance of that Certificate not only offered judicial support for the very serious contentions made by Garrison, but constituted the first judicial finding regarding the involvement of the CIA with persons said to have played a role in planning the assassination.

On March 7, 1968, Judge Braniff's Certificate became a matter of public record. From that day forward, it became available to the media. Yet the press has universally ignored the document and its explosive ramifications. The silence is ominous, and its totallity gives the impression of orchestration.

Several days before Garrison acted, he told me that he was considering an attempt to subpoena Dulles. Over coffee at the New Orleans Athletic Club, Garrison observed, "I'm sure that Dulles could have told the Commission a great deal had he been a witness rather than a member." He then said, "In the moving papers, I'm going to point out that in spite of his background and familiarity with the CIA aspects of the case, Dulles was never called as a witness. I won't even mention that he was a Commissioner." He added with a smile, "I wonder what his response will be?" "I presume", I answered, "that you think he will be foolish enough to point out that he was a Commission member and thus make the connection between the CIA and the Commission for you." Garrison's answer was, "Let's see."

When it was reported that he would be subpoened, Dulles spoke with